

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 05852 280405Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: EC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, LUXEMBOURG,
JUNE 26, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ON JUNE 26, THE EC COUNCIL HELD ITS FIRST SESSION DEVOTED TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. THIS COUNCIL, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE URGING OF EC COMMISSIONER BRUNNER, DEALT PRIMARILY WITH PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE EC'S JOINT RESEARCH CENTER (JRC). THE MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED PROGRAMS FOR STORING RADIOACTIVE WASTE; THE TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF NUCLEAR SAFETY; AND ENERGY RELATED R&D. THE MINISTERS HEARD A STATEMENT FROM THE BELGIAN DELEGATION ON A COMMON COMMUNITY POLICY IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. END SUMMARY.

2. ACTIVITIES OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTER: THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO WRANGLING BETWEEN THE GERMANS AND ITALIANS OVER THE FUTURE OF THE JRC. IN ADDITION TO A BUDGET
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 05852 280405Z

MOVE TO OFFSET INFLATION, THE COMMISSION PROPOSED THAT THE JRC

ESTABLISHMENT AT PETTEN, THE NETHERLANDS, UNDERTAKE NEW RESEARCH ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE EMPLOYMENT OF 10 ADDITIONAL SCIENTISTS AND THE MOVEMENT OF SOME 50 OTHER POSITIONS WHICH WERE TO BE FOUND WITHIN THE EXISTING JRC STAFFING PATTERN. THE COMMISSION ALSO PROPOSED A BUDGETARY INCREASE OF \$300 MILLION. THE GERMANS OBJECTED STRENUOUSLY TO ANY INCREASE IN THE COMMUNITY'S R&D PROGRAM AT THIS TIME SAYING THE COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS HAD NOT BEEN SUBJECT TO SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL CONTROL AND THAT THEY HAD NOT FOCUSED ON WELL-DEFINED OBJECTIVES. WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARED, THE GERMANS WERE STILL BLOCKING ANY ACTION ON BUDGETARY GROUNDS, AND HAVE REFERRED THE MATTER BACK TO BONN FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. ALL OTHER DELEGATIONS AGREED TO THE PROPOSED INCREASES.

3. ALL DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THE GERMANS, AGREED TO THE EXPENDITURE OF \$1.2 MILLION FOR THE PLANNING FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS FOR THE JRC. BY OCTOBER 1975, THE COMMISSION IS TO SUBMIT TO THE COUNCIL DETAILED PLANS FOR THE COMMUNITY'S RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR 1977-1980.

4. COMMUNITY ENERGY R&D PROGRAM: THE MINISTER DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS, AS MODIFIED BY COREPER, CONCERNING COMMUNITY R&D EFFORTS IN THE ENERGY SECTOR. AS IN THE CASE OF THE JRC PROGRAM, THE GERMANS OBJECTED SAYING THAT THEY COULD NOT AGREE TO ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES AT THIS TIME. THE ITALIAN DELEGATION, WHILE AGREEING TO THE CONTENT OF THE ENERGY RELATED R&D PROPOSALS, ENTERED A FORMAL OBJECTION SAYING THEY INTENDED TO HOLD THE PROPOSALS ON ENERGY R&D HOSTAGE UNTIL THE GERMANS GAVE WAY ON THE JRC QUESTION. THUS, THE ITALIANS IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT THE JRC FACILITY AT ISPRA, HAVE PREVENTED THE GERMANS FROM CLEARING ONLY PART OF THE COMMUNITY'S RESEARCH EFFORT. ALL OTHER DELEGATIONS AGREED TO EXPEND A MAXIMUM OF \$80 MILLION IN TWO SEGMENTS FOR ENERGY R&D. THE FIRST SEGMENT, WHICH WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY, CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY \$16 MILLION; THE REMAINDER OF MONEY IS TO BE RELEASED WITH THE COUNCIL'S AGREEMENT AFTER 18 MONTHS SUBSEQUENT TO A COMPLETE REVIEW OF THE ENTIRE PROGRAM.

5. AS PRESENTLY STRUCTURED, THE COMMUNITY ENERGY R&D PROGRAM IS TO CONSIST OF RESEARCH IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: ENERGY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 EC BRU 05852 280405Z

SAVINGS, MAXIMUM EXPENDITURE \$14.8 MILLION; HYDROGEN PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION \$17.22 MILLION; SOLAR ENERGY \$22.75 MILLION; GEOTHERMAL ENERGY \$17.9 MILLION; SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND MODEL BUILDING \$5.0 MILLION.

6. NUCLEAR SAFETY: THE COUNCIL REACHED AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO INTENSIFY AND ACCELERATE MEMBER STATE COOPERATION ON COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO IMPROVE NUCLEAR SAFETY. ACCORDING TO

PERMDEL SOURCES, ALL MINISTERS, INCLUDING THE GERMANS, AGREED THAT THIS WAS AN AREA OF SERIOUS CONCERN AND URGED THE COREPER TO WORK ON DRAFTING COMMUNITY REGULATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

7. NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL: THE COUNCIL ADOPTED A FIVE YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM CONCERNING STOCKPILING AND NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL. THE PROGRAM IS TO COST APPROXIMATELY \$27 MILLION.

8. COMMON POLICY IN THE AREAS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: THE COUNCIL TOOK NOTE OF A DECLARATION BY BELGIAN STATE SECRETARY GENNS ON PROPOSALS DEFINING A COMMON EC POLICY IN THE AREA OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. (COPIES OF HIS STATEMENT WILL BE SENT TO EUR/REP LAMB AND TO EMBASSY BRUSSELS.). GREENWALD

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